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2 February 1951

Thomas L. Rimball, Director Arizona Come and Fish Commission Arizona State Building Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Kinball:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 29 relative to fort Huachuca.

Thank you very much for your data regarding the fish, game and buffalo now at the Fort. It is greatly appreciated.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

HOWARD FYLE Governor

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Ārizona Game and Fish Commission

THOMAS L. KIMBALL, DIRECTOR

ARIZONA STATE BUILDING PHOENIX, ARIZONA

January 29, 1951

Governor Howard Pyle, Capitol Building, Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Governor Pyle:

Reference is made to the conference held in your office the morning of January 29 relative to the recapture of deed to Fort Huachuca by the U. S. Air Force.

As per your request for information concerning the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's position relative to this matter, the following paragraphs outline our position in this regard:

It is granted that the U. S. Air Force be given immediate possession of the Fort Huachuca area in order to delay no further their efforts in the national defense. The Commission and the organized sportsmen of the State of Arizona hereby respectfully request that the title to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's portion of the Fort Huachuca Military Reservation be not allowed to revert to the U. S. Government. By way of further explanation of this request the Commission believes that a lease can be drawn up by the U. S. Army Engineers which would serve the same purpose as the outright recapture of the title. The Commission will gladly accept any terms which the Air Force requires for their operation on the area, requesting only that in the event the installation is no longer needed for military purposes and is declared surplus to the needs of the government that the lease be cancelled and the title as now conveyed to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission be declared valid.

It might be well to further state the problems involved in the transfer of the installation to the Air Force as it affects the Arizona Game and Fish Department's operation on the area. We have fenced approximately 22 miles of the lower elevations with a paige wire fence to prevent the escape of 75 head of antelope transplanted on the area for the purpose of re-establishing this species in their former range in southern Arizona.

We have also repaired the fence across the western boundary of the military reservation for the purpose of excluding trespass domestic stock. We have

completed extensive reconditioning and repair of the dwellings which were granted to us under the terms of the deed. We have also transplanted a herd of over 250 adult buffalo onto the area. These buffalo are now confined to the extreme northwestern portion of the old Fort and are under fence with considerable amount of investment made for corrals and watering devices. If a lease can be arranged we would appreciate consideration for the maintenance of the buffalo herd on a portion of the area not utilized for training purposes. This is the only stipulation the Commission would request in the provisions of the lease.

In the event the lease can be arranged the Arizona Game and Fish Commission does not request reimbursement for any of the expenditures made on the area. In the event the title reverts to the government and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission does not recapture the title an itemized list of the expenditures will be presented to the designated land owner for payment.

Senators Carl Hayden and Ernest MacFarland have indicated in telephone conversations with me that they saw no reason why the Air Force could not secure by lease the portion of the Fort Huachuca area now deeded to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and if it be your desire to consummate the transfer in this manner that you so inform them of your desires and they would attempt to settle the transfer in this manner.

Yours very truly,

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THOMAS L. KIMBALE, Director Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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